

Composed of 45 persons—32 private citizens and 13 heads of Federal departments and agencies with cultural programs—our Committee is charged by the President with encouraging greater private sector support and more public-private partnerships for the arts and the humanities in the United States.

Earlier this year the President's Committee—of which the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, is Honorary Chair—released *Creative America*, a Report to the President—and the country—containing over 50 specific recommendations for action.

One of the major recommendations in our report to President Clinton was to expand international cultural and educational relations.

In *Creative America*, the President's Committee asserted that "international artistic and scholarly exchanges are more important than ever in a world in which ideas, information and technologies travel freely across national borders."

Certainly, the American economy is linked to international markets, as the current troubles in Asia vividly demonstrate, and as a global power, the United States has a vital interest in supporting programs in our schools, colleges and universities that increase our knowledge and understanding of other countries, cultures and languages.

In this connection, the Fulbright and U.S. Information Agency Exchange Programs have played a crucial role in promoting democratic values around the world.

Everyone here knows that not only have the Fulbright exchanges brought to the United States at critical stages in their careers future presidents and prime ministers, university presidents and scholars, influential journalists and business leaders but have also opened doors of opportunity for Americans to study and teach in other countries.

It is, therefore, a matter of great distress to members of the President's Committee that in recent years, government funding of the Fulbright program and other international educational and cultural exchanges has been sharply reduced even as private sector support for such efforts has been leveling off.

In light of the nature of the present US Congress, I'm glad to report that a few months ago the Senate and House of Representatives voted funds for educational and cultural exchanges at approximately current levels. One program, the Higher Education Collaboration between the United States and the European Union, will provide grants to be made jointly by the US Department of Education and the European Commission to help American and European colleges and universities with student exchanges.

In like fashion, I hope that more business firms and private foundations in the United States and elsewhere will support programs of international studies at colleges and universities in their respective countries as well as international scholarly exchanges. For example, my colleagues at NYU are now discussing prospects for a campaign to raise funds to endow fellowships for students from Spain and the Spanish-speaking world to pursue graduate study in the humanities and social sciences at our university and fellowships for NYU students to go to Spain or Latin American for post-graduate work.

Even as we in the United States must do far better than we have been doing in supporting international studies at our own colleges and universities and scholarly and cultural exchanges with other countries, I hope you will permit me to suggest that there should be more attention in Europe to learning about America.

When I was at Oxford 45 years ago, study of the United States ended with the League of Nations. And while there's been some

progress, it's only in recent years that Oxford has established an Institute for American Studies.

And with the increasing integration of the European Community and the prospect of adding new members from East and Central Europe in the near future, European students need to learn more about each other. It is, therefore, most encouraging that the European Union is supporting several programs to encourage intra-European study and has allocated funds to include students from East and Central Europe, including Russia.

Allow me here to mention a project on which I have been working for the past two years with colleagues in the United States and Europe. I speak a Chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, a Federally-funded, nongovernmental, nonpartisan foundation that makes grants to private organizations that champion the institutions and practices of a democratic society. My colleagues I plan to establish a Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeastern Europe, to be located administratively in Salonika, Greece. The programs and activities of the Center will be carried out in the several countries of Southeastern Europe—the Balkans. These programs are intended to be multinational in scope bringing together participants from the various countries of the region.

The purpose of the Center's multinational approach is to foster greater interchange and understanding among the peoples of the area and to develop networks among individuals and groups committed to the democratic and peaceful development of Southeastern Europe.

For example, one Center project would support the writing of school textbooks and improvement of pedagogy at all levels in the countries of the region. Textbook treatments of historical relationships are of real consequence in Southeastern Europe. There are few direct cultural and educational links among peoples in the Balkans and the views they take, of their neighbors are extremely important in shaping political attitudes. We hope to forge better ties through a series of workshops for university professors of Balkan history from throughout the region.

The governing body of the Center will be composed chiefly of persons from the region itself. To finance whatever projects the Center will undertake, approaches will be made to corporations, private foundations and the European Commission.

Certainly my colleagues and I who hope to see a Center to support the development of democratic institutions in this troubled part of Europe believe that education, at every level, must play a crucial role.

Now the activities of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for Democracy are not the only ones that continue to bring me to existential connection with Europe.

For example, I'm also chairman of the American Ditchley Foundation. Ditchley Park, as many of you know, a few miles outside of Oxford, England, is a lovely 18th-century house that for some 40 years has been a place for conferences on all manner of subjects. I myself chaired a symposium there two years ago on "Corruption in Democratic Societies" and will next February lead another on "Corruption: What to do About it?". Law enforcement authorities, business and political leaders and scholars from several countries, chiefly Europe and the United States will participate. As the battle against corruption has won new visibility on the part of OECD member states, I hope this issue will command increased attention in the European Commission Parliament.

Also, a few weeks ago in both Washington, DC and New York, I was one of 25 Americans

who joined a like number of Spaniards from the worlds of business, government and the universities to discuss matters of mutual interest. We shall meet next year in Barcelona.

Here I recall that early in my Congressional career, I regularly took part in what was known as the Anglo-American Parliamentary Group on Africa. Members of our House and Senate, the House of Commons and House of Lords, would meet periodically to discuss Africa but this arrangement was also one of the few venues that enabled British and American politicians to know each other personally and talk about the politics of our two countries.

Ought there not be established a systematic program of exchanges between and among Members of the US Congress, Members of the European Parliament and of the parliaments of EU member states?

I add that next week in Athens, under the auspices of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, to take part in the third meeting of a Forum on Greece, Turkey and the United States. Seven persons from each country—nearly all of us having earlier served our respective governments in some capacity—will meet to discuss problems of common concern—the Aegean, Cyprus, relations with the European Union—and hope to build some useful bridges.

And that bridge building across the Atlantic is, after all, what, or so it seems to me and, I take it, to all of you, what we should be about.

Now I realize that there are many more aspects to the transatlantic relationship than I have here addressed: trade, the expansion of NATO, what to do about Bosnia, how to deal with Iran and Iraq, to name a few.

And I could add to this list of challenges to revive—to strengthen and not diminish—US-European exchanges. Certainly I hope that President Clinton will make this commitment a top priority on his foreign policy agenda.

I think it appropriate, therefore, that I conclude these remarks by recalling to you the words of the signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty over four decades ago:

"They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law."

That's still a pretty good foundation!

UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 856) to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 856, the United States-Puerto Rico Political Status Act which presents to Puerto Rican voters three political status alternatives: statehood, commonwealth, independence.

If the Commonwealth option obtains a majority of the votes, or if none of the three options obtain a majority, a referendum will be held in Puerto Rico every ten years until an option providing for full self-government achieves a majority of the votes.

Congress granted American citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico in 1917. This bill provides a congressionally recognized framework for the 3.8 million people of Puerto Rico to freely express their wishes regarding their options for full self-government for the first time in almost a century of U.S. Administration.

Puerto Ricans have been the largest body of U.S. citizens which do not enjoy the privileges usually accorded to citizenship, including voting representation in Congress and the right to vote in Presidential elections.

Puerto Ricans are the largest group of Hispanic citizens in the U.S. and have only a second class citizenship.

H.R. 856 rectifies the problem of second class citizenship by empowering the people of Puerto Rico to become fully enfranchised, either outside of or wholly within the scope of the U.S. Constitution, through the exercise of their right of self-determination.

More than 340,000 soldiers from Puerto Rico have served in the U.S. armed forces since 1917, and more than 8,000 Puerto Ricans have died fighting for America in the U.S. armed forces.

H.R. 856 creates a constitutionally sound process to resolve the status of Puerto Rico.

Inaction is costing the U.S. taxpayer, in that the 3.8 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico will continue to enjoy a free ride exemption from the Federal income taxes the rest of us pay.

A vote against H.R. 856 will continue to deny the people of Puerto Rico the right of self-determination, the very same right which the U.S. so consistently and forcefully advocates in the rest of the world among its allies.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE CHAU

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Chau, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as a "Young Woman of Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Annie Chau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States in 1991. Over the past seven years, she has made remarkable contributions to San Mateo County. As a San Mateo High School student, she has held the positions of Class Treasurer and Vice President of the International Club, in addition to being part of the school's math team, marching band, and local Amnesty International chapter. Ms. Chau has volunteered with children as a reading tutor, an art instructor, and an activity assistant. Further, she represents the youth of the community through her work on the San Mateo County Youth Commission and the Foster City Youth Advisory Council. Annie Chau has achieved a 4.0 GPA and she has been repeatedly recognized for her academic accomplishments in science, math, Latin and Spanish, along with all her volunteer efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Annie Chau is an outstanding leader and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being chosen a "Young Woman of Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

HONORING ROSEMARY LOMBARD

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rosemary Lombard. Rosemary is held in the highest esteem by the Irish American community for her overall integrity, leadership and commitment to the preservation of Irish culture and tradition. She has ably chaired and actively participated in numerous major civic, religious, and charitable causes over the years.

Rosemary is a first generation Irish American of Counties Mayo and Sligo heritage. She was born in Washington Heights, Manhattan and was instilled at an early age with a love of Ireland and all things Irish. During her life, she has served tirelessly in the preservation of Irish culture and tradition. Most important of these traditions is the strong and fervent belief in the attainment of human rights for all people of Ireland.

Having her Bachelor's and Masters degrees from Hunter College, and an Educational Leadership Certificate from Manhattan College, Rosemary served as a past President, founding member and Director of the Irish Teachers Association. In addition, she was a past Chairperson of the Irish American Heritage and Cultural Week Committee of the New York City Board of Education. She also broke ground by being the first woman President of the Mayo Society. Her other posts have included: Treasurer of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee; delegate to the St. Patrick's Day Parade for over 25 years; President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 3; United Irish Counties Association's Second Vice President; charter member of the Irish American Heritage Museum; Secretary of the 46th Police Precinct Council, Board Member of the Fordham Civic Association; and Member of the Board of Directors of the Irish Institute.

I think you will agree with me that Rosemary has contributed enormously to our community and deserves much recognition for her dedicated years of service. Today, I pay tribute to Rosemary Lombard and her tireless efforts and know my colleagues will join with me in recognizing her tremendous contributions to education about Irish American heritage and human rights.

COMMENDING THE BRAZOS VALLEY YOUTH TROUPE FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of the Brazos Valley Youth Troupers, who have just spent their spring break taking on Broadway. These talented youth were the first group chosen by Camp Broadway to attend their performing arts instructional camp in New York City. Selected for their wealth of acting experience, this group of 10 to 17-year olds have represented their community of Bryan, Texas with excellence in all of their achievements.

In just two years, the Brazos Valley Youth Troupe has performed for the Olympic Torch Relay, appeared in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and now studied under the direction of various Tony Award winners on Broadway. The troupe's performance in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* drew rave reviews from the national touring cast they performed with, as well as the audience. With Camp Broadway, sixteen youth from the troupe traveled to New York City, took classes from the likes of Carol Channing and famed director George C. Wolfe, and met with the cast and crew of *Titanic* in an educational workshop—all at their own expense. In a short period of time, these youths were able to raise \$1000 per student to cover their expenses of participating in Camp Broadway.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of young citizens such as these involved in Brazos Valley Youth Troupe. They reflect the commitment and direction that makes our nation strong. They found a goal and went for it—making themselves a success and, in turn, a success of their community. I join with the citizens of Bryan in applauding them for their accomplishments and encourage them to use that ambition in all their future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FRANK BROWN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Brown, a loving, devoted father and family man, decorated veteran, and a successful businessman who passed away in Los Angeles on December 21, 1997.

Frank was born on January 27, 1918, in Old Town, a section of Lewisville, Arkansas. His mother, Kate Bradley, and grandparents Kathryn and Abe, instilled in Frank and his sisters Bernice and Daisy, the solid foundation and commitment to community and family that would serve as his guiding principle for years to come. Following his graduation from Lewisville High School, Frank moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he worked in a lumber mill and played first base for one of the few semiprofessional black baseball teams, the Shreveport Black Sports.

Frank answered his country's call in World War II, serving in the United States Army's 870th Engineering and Aviation Battalion in the South Pacific. He received numerous citations and medals for his distinguished military service and was honorably discharged in 1945. Upon leaving the Army, Frank realized one of his longtime goals of building a home for his mother in Arkansas.

From Arkansas Frank moved to Los Angeles, California, where he married Odessa Brown, another Lewisville native, on May 21, 1946. Frank and Odessa produced five children: Marion, Gwendolyn, Kathleen, Frank, and Reginald. In Los Angeles, Frank pursued a career as a glazier and worked for years to break the color line in the once-segregated Glazier and Glass Workers Union, Local 636. He finally became a member of Local 636 in 1953 and in 1965, founded Brown's Glass Company—Los Angeles' first Black-owned